

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-11 INT-05 CU-04 BIB-01 HA-05 OIC-02 ACDA-12
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P 171731Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6140
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 02533

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECE, SENV, CSCE
SUBJECT: ECE 33RD SESSION AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON
ENVIRONMENT

REF: (A) STATE 21462, (B) GENEVA 2080

1. MY STATEMENT AT FEB 9 STANOVNIK LUNCH HAS HAD QUITE
STRONG IMPACT ON GENEVA ATTITUDES TOWARD PROPOSED ECE
HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT MATTERS. MY
ACTUAL STATEMENT AT LUNCHEON WAS PRECISELY ALONG LINES
DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTION, I.E., THAT PROGRESS ON ALL CSCE
RELATED TOPICS DEPENDS ON PROGRESS IN CURRENT BELGRADE
DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT UNTIL OUTCOME OF BELGRADE CSCE
TOPICS BECOMES CLEARER, U.S. WOULD PREFER NOT TO TAKE ANY
FIRM DECISIONS REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MEETING OR TIMING THEREOF.

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2. SECOND AND THIRD HAND REPORTS HAVE EXAGGERATED WHAT
WAS ACTUALLY SAID. DANISH AMBASSADOR (KASTOFT) TOLD ME
HE HAD HEARD THAT I HAD SAID THAT U.S. WOULD VETO
ENVIRONMENT MEETING UNLESS USSR AGREED TO APPROPRIATE
LANGUAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN FINAL BELGRADE DOCUMENT.
IN RESPONSE TO MY STATEMENT THAT WE REALIZED WE DID NOT

HAVE A VETO IN MATTER, KASTOFT RESPONDED THAT IN EFFECT WE DID--THAT WEST EUROPEANS WOULD NOT ACCEPT HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING UNLESS WE DID. (NOTE: IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT SEVERAL EEC COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING SCRATCHED FOR SUBSTANTIVE REASONS AND WOULD WELCOME HAVING U.S. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SO DOING. NORWEGIANS HOWEVER HAVE STRONG SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST IN MEETING AND WOULD BE PARTY MOST DISAPPOINTED IF IT WENT BY BOARDS. WE HAVE IMPRESSION USSR'S INTEREST IN HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING IS TO LARGE EXTENT AS STEPPING STONE TO ENERGY MEETING.

3. AT FEB 15 ECE WORKING LEVEL CAUCUS, DUTCH REP EXPRESSED VIEW DECISION ON ENVIRONMENT MEETING WILL DEPEND ON HOW BELGRADE GOES AND WE CAN'T SEPARATE WHAT IS GOING ON IN BELGRADE FROM WHAT IS GOING ON IN ECE. SWISS REP EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEW.

4. IN VIEW OF NEED TO MUSTER MAXIMUM BARGAINING LEVERAGE AT BELGRADE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO AUTHORIZE ME TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER DIRECTLY WITH USSR AMBASSADOR HERE, INDICATING THAT U.S. POSITION IS ACTUALLY HARDER THAN THAT I EXPRESSED IN STANOVNIK LUNCH AND THAT WE WOULD NOT IN FACT BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING IF BELGRADE CONFERENCE FAILS. THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD INCREASE PRESSURE ON SOVIETS, BUT LEAVE TO OUR OWN LATER JUDGMENT QUESTION OF WHETHER FINAL BELGRADE RESULTS SHOULD BE DEEMED FAILURE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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